

BRYN MAWR GIRLS REBEL AT 'CUT' RULE

**Plead for Support of New York
Alumnae Against President
M. Carey Thomas.**

STORMY SESSIONS HELD

**Students Say Penalties Are More
Drastic Than Those of Any
Other College.**

The 500 students of Bryn Mawr College, at Bryn Mawr, Penn., who since the opening of school last month have been in revolt against a new "no cut" rule designed to prevent absence from lectures, carried their grievance to the graduates of this city yesterday when the New York Alumnae of Bryn Mawr gathered for their annual meeting at the Bryn Mawr Club, 137 East Fortieth Street.

The meeting was presided over by Mrs. Learned Hand, wife of Federal Judge Hand, and only a few of the fifty women present had had an inkling of troubles—the first of the kind in Bryn Mawr's history.

When the meeting was over Mrs. Hand and other officers of the organization refused to discuss what had been said, but it was learned that the students' side of the controversy was forcefully presented by some of their champions. On the other hand, several women spoke with warmth in defense of President M. Carey Thomas, who is sponsor for the new rule, and if the students were counting upon the solid backing of the alumnae they will be disappointed.

No formal action was taken, but it was decided that the situation had reached a serious stage and that the grievance of the students should be looked into by a committee of graduates known as the Academic Committee, composed of representatives of the alumnae throughout the country. The Academic Committee meets regularly with the Faculty at the college to discuss student affairs and it is expected to go thoroughly into the controversy.

On behalf of President Thomas, the chief target of the students' attack, it was said that recent years had seen a large increase of absenteeism and that it had become necessary to take radical steps. Under the old system, which put each student on her honor and allowed her to cut lectures as she pleased, the privilege had been greatly abused, according to President Thomas's friends. Statistics were cited to show that last year five girls cut sixty lectures and one girl was absent 120 times. It was also pointed out that the new rule was devised by the entire Faculty.

The students say the new rule is the most rigid ever enforced in any college. It imposes a penalty for every cut, arranged on a grand scale of "points" deducted from the student's standing. The penalties, according to the students, also work a hardship upon girls working for scholarships inasmuch as no excuse is now accepted except illness.

The college had hardly opened before murmurs were heard, and the students have already had several stormy sessions with the Faculty. At one of these it is reported that Miss Thomas administered a snub to Miss Helen Taft, daughter of the ex-President, who has taken an active part in the students' cause. This story was also denied, and the denial was repeated yesterday by Miss Thomas's friends here. The students say they were ready to accept a "cut" rule similar to those in vogue at Harvard, Princeton, and Yale, but President Thomas would not consider the proposal, saying that Bryn Mawr was on a higher plane than the men's uni-

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Almost at the moment the alumnae here were considering the students' case yesterday the Faculty at Bryn Mawr gave its ultimatum to the undergraduates in a reply to the request for a repeal of the new rule and a year of probation. The Faculty reply read:

To the Undergraduate Association of Bryn Mawr College:

The Faculty after carefully considering the petition of the Undergraduate Association continues of the opinion that it is inexpedient to leave the regulation of attendance at classes to the student body. The Faculty, however, for the year 1914-1915 modifies its rules to read as below, but in the hope that no large percentage of the undergraduate body will avail itself of the number of cuts mentioned:

"The following rule relating to attendance shall be in operation during the year 1914-1915, and shall apply to the class work of all undergraduates. There will be no stated penalty for the first eight unexcused cuts in a semester, provided not more than one is taken in each one-hour course, two in each two-hour course or three-hour course, and three in each five-hour course.

"Cuts which exceed these limits, either in number or distribution shall reduce the grade for the course in which they are taken by two points for each such cut, with the proviso that when in any course the unexcused cuts exceed 25 per cent. of the semester's scheduled lectures of that course, the penalty shall be four points for each additional cut. In computing the percentage of cuts, the fraction one-half or over shall be counted as one. The computation of the penalties to be inflicted under this rule, and the consequent reduction of grades, shall be made by the college office."

The undergraduates say the ultimatum will never be accepted and that the student body, with the hoped-for support of the alumnae, will stand for a return to the old self-government idea.

The students will meet at the college next Monday to frame their reply to the Faculty.